



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
GOVERNOR

January 9, 2007

The Honorable Greg Walden  
United States House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-3702

Dear Congressman Walden:

Congratulations on your election successes and on convening the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States. I look forward to working with you throughout the next two years of this Congress.

I was delighted to learn that H.R. 17, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007, was introduced on January 4<sup>th</sup> by Congressman DeFazio and Walden. If we are successful in passing this or a similar bill before May 2007, there is still a chance that the expiration of P.L. 106-393 will not permanently distress rural America in over 40 states and in over 700 counties.

As you well know, Oregon's counties have relied on this law to provide stable funding for rural schools and communities as well as popular forest management projects. This program has brought together people from both sides of the aisle and both timber and environmental interests because it is a successful program that provides for our counties and protects precious forest land.

Oregon is rebounding from a deep recession and we need the continued support, commitment and partnership from the federal government to ensure all of our communities benefit from a strong economy. The elimination of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act would default on the 100-year-old federal commitment to our rural communities and hurt thousands of Oregonians who depend on these payments to keep their communities strong and stable.

The Honorable Greg Walden  
January 9, 2007  
Page Two

I recognize that you are doing all you can to restore this 100-year-old promise to rural America and I am committed to working in partnership with you to pass legislation ensuring a continuation of the federal commitment to counties in America. Thank you for your continuing efforts on behalf of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore R. Kulongoski", with a large, sweeping initial "T".

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
Governor

TRK:sb:rn:je  
c: Oregon Congressional Delegation